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HARFORD COUNTY BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK

Bel Air, MD - September 18, 2008) - - Harford County Executive David R. Craig, James Richardson, Director of the Office of Economic Development and Harford County Government, will celebrate Business Appreciation Week, September 22 - 26, 2008. Each day of the week, the county executive and representatives of the Office of Economic Development will visit businesses throughout the county and recognize them for their hard work and successes.

"The business community is critical to the overall wellbeing of Harford County and Harford County Government," stated County Executive David R. Craig. "I am taking this week to hear first hand from the business community about the challenges and opportunities that confront them in the current state of our economy" the county executive remarked.

Among the events planned for the week is a business appreciation kickoff breakfast Monday morning at the County Administration Building in Bel Air. On Tuesday, the 2008 Maryland Small Business Awards for Harford County will be recognized at Harford Community College. Among the presenters will be County Executive Craig, James LaCalle, President of Harford Community College and Stephen D. Umberger Director, Baltimore District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Those Harford County small businesses receiving awards include McComas Funeral Home, Lewis Web Creations, Inc., Quicksilver Analytics, Inc., Shadow Business Services, Small Business Services, Inc.

Wednesday morning the county executive will host his quarterly Business Indicators Breakfast and roundtable discussion with business and community leaders from throughout the county. The forum gives the business community the chance to discuss matters of importance and concern to them with the county executive. The forum also helps provide guidance and advice to the county executive in helping to develop an economic forecast for Harford County.

Later that day, the county executive and the Office of the Economic Development will visit Edgewood and RT 40 area businesses. Thursday, Harford County Government will visit

and recognize businesses in the Aberdeen area.

Business Appreciation Week 2008 culminates on Friday with a seminar at the Clarion Hotel Ballroom in Aberdeen titled, **"The Economic Outlook for Harford County"**. Joining the county executive will be Dr. Joseph E. Cater, III Chief Economist and President of Market - Economics, Inc., of Annapolis, Maryland. Dr. Cater holds a doctorate in economics and a Masters of Business Administration in management.

"Harford County offers businesses an excellent opportunity to grow and prosper," said Jim Richardson, Director of the Office of Economic Development. "Business Appreciation Week is a time for us to thank our business partners and show our appreciation for the economic strength and stability they bring to Harford County," Richardson stated.

For more information on Business Appreciation Week, contact the Office of Economic Development at 410-638-3059.